



# BROOKLYN'S IN THE HOUSE

## NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE D. CLARKE

### 11<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

*Representing: Brownsville, Ocean Hill, Crown Heights, Greater Flatbush, East Flatbush, Kensington, Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, Prospect Heights, Prospect Gardens, Grand Army Plaza, Windsor Terrace, Flatbush and Midwood*

# October 9, 2009

## National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

This October marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to increasing awareness of the importance of early breast cancer detection.

Improving awareness and funding for breast cancer has been a passion of mine for many years. During my service on the New York City Council, I co-chaired the Women's Caucus, where I helped raise more than \$9 million for organizations that address women's issues – namely breast cancer.

Breast cancer will occur in one out of every eight women, making it the second-most common form of cancer for women in the United States. With this in mind, it is important to have an educational campaign to increase public awareness regarding the threats posed by breast cancer to young women. Preventative measures are our best weapons in the battle against breast cancer.

Although October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, breast cancer does not confine itself to a 31-day period. Breast cancer is a daily reality for millions of women and their families. Please take time out this month to familiarize yourself and your loved ones with educational materials and early detection measures found at <http://www.nbcam.org/>. With the proper awareness, breast cancer is a battle that can be won.

## Congresswoman Clarke recognizes the National Equality March

On Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> thousands of individuals will march on Washington to demand full equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people. As members of every race, class, and faith the struggle for LGBT equality is part of a larger movement for human rights and social justice.

Citizens have a right to work and go to school free from harassment and discrimination. As a beneficiary of the civil rights movement, I believe we all have a right to live our daily lives without fear of hate crimes. That is why I voted in favor of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, support same sex marriage, and will vote to end discrimination in hiring practices against LGBT individuals.

I represent one of the most diverse districts in nation, and the LGBT community is embedded in the cultural diversity in my district. I would like to send my support to all those who will come out to DC this weekend to march in Washington.



Dear Neighbor:

On Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> the first doses of the H1N1 virus vaccinations arrived in New York City. Many of my constituents have questions and concerns about prevention measures against the virus.

That is why I will be hosting a Tele-Townhall meeting from 4 PM to 5 PM on Thursday, October 15. The Tele-Town hall is entitled "The H1N1 Virus: Preventing the Spread of the Swine Flu."

I will be joined by Dr. Karen Aletha Maybank the Assistant Commissioner of New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to discuss the preventing the spread of H1N1.

Please take this opportunity to call in and ask any questions regarding the H1N1 Virus and find out about the preventative measures you can take stop the spread of this virus.

The call-in number to participate in the Tele-Town hall meeting is (877) 229-8493. The access pin is: 13319.

Please call my office at 718.287.1142 with any questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing your questions and comments regarding H1N1.

Sincerely,  
*Yvette D. Clarke*  
Member of Congress

## Annual CBC Scholarship Awarded to Students from Brooklyn



Rep. Clarke presents the CBC scholarship to Cindy Bailey of NYC College of Technology

A quality education is the most important factor in determining economic, and often personal, success in this nation. I am proud to congratulate the eleven students who were awarded a scholarship from the Congressional Black Caucus. These students worked hard to achieve the grades they received in high school and have shown their ambition to lead successful careers in college. Throughout my career, I have advocated to provide resources to make education more affordable. I commend my fellow CBC members

for their leadership, for realizing the necessity of these scholarship programs. We will continue to rally support for new opportunities that offer our students an affordable education. I wish this year's recipients the best and hope they have a successful academic year.

## Export Import Bank Export Seminar

On Monday, Oct. 5, 2009, I attended the Export Import Bank Export Promotion Seminar in Brooklyn. During the seminar some daunting statistics were presented about the current economic state of small businesses. The fact that 95% of consumers are outside of the U.S., but only 1% of our companies are involved in exporting is a challenge for the growth of small business.

However, I believe that in times of economic downturn, America can use this as an opportunity to roll up its sleeves and create a win-win situation. We can create jobs here at home by providing avenues in which small business can export goods and services abroad, thereby increasing the income of the respective countries. The more counties spend on our services, the more our small business profit. This will help to reverse the current economic downturn our nation faces today.

I am confident that small businesses have the ability to effectively compete on a local, national, and global market if we provide them access to the resources they need. As a Member of the House Small Business committee, I will continue to fight on behalf of small business so that they can succeed in the global economy.

## National Cyber Security Awareness Month 2009

Americans rely on information technology in every aspect of our lives – from managing businesses to social networking. As innovation spurs increased access and demand for the internet and information technologies, cyber warfare and cyber crime are increasing in sophistication and frequency. That is why; I introduced H. Res. 797, which supports the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month 2009. I am committed to working with Federal agencies, national organizations, businesses, and educational institutions to encourage the development and implementation of existing and future cyber security standards, practices, and technologies that enhance our nation's security.

I will also be hosting a series of roundtables and events this month, designed to examine key policy considerations and to educate Members of Congress and their staffs on ways to protect their own computers.

## Legislative Spotlight

As our nation seeks to move towards economic recovery, we must ensure that our veteran, minority, and women-owned small business have access to the tools they need to succeed.

The construction industry often serves as an entry point for emerging small businesses, including those undertaken by minorities, women and veterans.

These enterprises may be contractors, specialty trade contractors, suppliers, fabricators, vendors or the myriad other businesses serving the needs of the construction industry.

The construction industry provides a variety of rewarding careers. However, construction is a challenging and competitive business environment that demands that business owners have specialized knowledge and skill sets.

That is why on Thursday, October 8, 2009, I introduced H.R.3771, *The Veteran, Minority and Women-Owned Construction Business Mentorship and Grant Assistance Act of 2009.* This bill will provide unprecedented support to minority, women and veteran-owned small construction businesses through mentorship and grant assistance programs.

Specifically, the proposed legislation amends the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to establish grant programs for minority, veteran, and women-owned small business construction companies. The grant program would provide funds to hire legal, accounting, and business consultants for the purpose of creating the internal business systems that are essential for success. Funds would also be made available to local groups and schools to bolster technical assistance to these firms.

This legislation is supported by 18 Members of Congress and 11 veterans, small business and construction trade organizations.

The federal government must continue to play a unique role in assisting small businesses; they are the backbone of our nation's economy.